

Private Vehicle Modifications

Definition: This service offers modifications to a privately owned vehicle used to transport the waiver participant, and for any equipment needed by the participant which makes the vehicle accessible to the participant. Modification to any government-subsidized vehicle is not permitted. Private Vehicle Modifications may include consultation and assessment to determine the specific modifications/equipment needed, follow-up inspection after modifications are completed, training in the use of the equipment, repairs not covered by warranty, and replacement of parts or equipment. Private Vehicle Modifications may not be used for general repair of the vehicle, regularly scheduled upkeep or maintenance of the vehicle except for maintenance of the modifications, and does not cover factory-installed modifications prior to purchase. This service may not be used to purchase or lease a vehicle. Payment may not be made to adapt vehicles that are owned or leased by paid providers of waiver services. To ensure cost-neutrality, the Private Vehicle Modification service must be within a monetary cap of \$7,500 per vehicle and a lifetime cap of two (2) vehicles per participant. The approval process for Private Vehicle Modifications is initially determined by the Waiver Case Manager/Early Interventionist based on the participant's needs, as identified and documented in the Support Plan, the consultation/assessment results (if applicable) and the availability of a privately owned vehicle that would be used for transportation on a routine basis. The criterion used in assessing a participant's need for this service is: 1) The parent or family member cannot transport the participant because the participant cannot get in or out of the vehicle; or 2) the participant can drive but cannot get in or out of the vehicle, and a modification to the vehicle would remove this barrier. According to State procurement policy, bids for the vehicle modification are obtained and submitted, along with the documentation of the need, to SCDDSN. The consultation/assessment does not require submission of bids. Each request is reviewed programmatically and fiscally before approval is given. The approval process is the same for any privately owned vehicle modification, regardless of ownership.

Service Limits: There is a monetary limit of \$7,500 per vehicle and a lifetime limit of two (2) vehicles modified per participant. If a participant does not utilize the entire \$7,500 when modifying a private vehicle and later needs to modify a second vehicle, the balance remaining from the first vehicle will not transfer to the new/second vehicle being modified.

For details on the consultations please see the Private Vehicle Assessment/Consultation section of this chapter.

Payment may not be made to adapt vehicles that are owned or leased by paid providers of waiver services.

Providers: Private Vehicle Modifications must be provided by vendors who are enrolled with SCDHHS as Waiver Durable Medical Equipment (DME) providers or by DDSN/DSN Boards/contracted providers. **A vendor enrolled with SCDHHS as a DME provider cannot opt to bill the Financial Manager.** The provider list for this service is located on DDSN's website.

In most instances, Private Vehicle Modifications are provided by a vendor enrolled with SCDHHS as a DME provider. There may, however, be circumstances where a participant's needs can be met by a vendor that is not enrolled with SCDHHS. Vendors who are not enrolled with SCDHHS **must** contract with the Financial Manager to provide Private Vehicle Modifications.

Arranging for and Authorizing Services: Before proceeding with bid requests, the Private Vehicle Modifications Fact Sheet (ID/RD Info Sheet-3) must be given to the participant/legal guardian. The information included in this fact sheet should be fully explained.

Once the participant's specific need has been identified and documented in the Plan and it is determined that Private Vehicle Modifications is the appropriate service to meet the need, the scope of work/specifications must be developed. This should be done in consultation with the participant and/or family and should define the expected modifications as clearly as possible. The following are two ways to accomplish this task:

1. The Waiver Case Manager/Early Interventionist can define the expected modifications by meeting with the participant/family, examining the vehicle, reviewing the modifications that are needed, and developing some parameters in writing to provide to the contractors submitting bids. This is a crucial step to ensure that all requested provider bids are based on similar expectations.

OR

2. The expected modifications can be defined by obtaining a Private Vehicle Modification Consultation. For more details on this option see the Private Vehicle Consultation section of Chapter 10. The Consultation will NOT count toward the lifetime monetary cap.

The written specifications that are developed, whether by the Waiver Case Manager/Early Interventionist or by an independent consultant, must be provided to the contractors when requesting bids; and, each contractor's bid must be based on those specifications. Furthermore, the participant will likely need to be present when the provider examines the vehicle.

Once the scope of the modification has been determined and put in writing by the Waiver Case Manager/Early Interventionist or independent consultant, a listing of available providers should be shared with the participant/family or the participant should be made aware of the qualifications for providers and asked to select providers to give at list three written bids. This offering of choice of provider must be documented in the participant's file.

Once the scope of the modification has been determined and put in writing by the Waiver Case Manager/Early Interventionist or by the independent consultant, the participant/family should be offered choice of provider. This offering of choice must be documented in the participant's file. If the cost of the modifications is greater than \$2,500, then written competitive quotes must be obtained from three (3) providers chosen by the participant/family.

Please see: SCDDSN Directive 250-08-DD, Procurement Requirements for Local DSN Boards

The Waiver Case Manager/Early Interventionist should assist the family as needed in soliciting written bids from contractors. Three (3) written bids must be obtained and submitted to the District Waiver Coordinator for approval before any work can be authorized. If three written bids could not be obtained, the Waiver Case Manager/Early Interventionist should submit any actual written bids received along with documentation to include a list of the contractors from whom the family requested written bids who did not respond. This issue will be considered when the written bids are reviewed, and a decision will be made by SCDDSN Central Office, according to State procurement policy, as to whether these attempts can be considered "no bid" and count toward the three (3) bid requirement. If not, continued efforts will be required to obtain three (3) written bids.

When a bid is received, the Acknowledgement of Bid Submission for Private Vehicle Modifications (ID/RD Form 62) must be completed and forwarded to the provider/contractor that submitted the bid. This must be done for each bid received. This communication notifies the providers/contractors that their bids were received and that they cannot provide services without written authorization from the Waiver Case Manager/Early Interventionist.

Note: If any change/editing must be made to the specifications of the proposed modifications during or after the solicitation of written bids, the solicitation process must be stopped. A written amendment of the specifications must be completed and sent to all potential bidders who received the original specifications, so that each has opportunity to respond to the amended solicitation. All bidders must submit a written bid in response to the amended specifications so that bidding on identical project requirements is assured. A copy of the written amendment to the specifications and the subsequent bids must be submitted to Central Office for internal review.

At the time the three (3) written bids are submitted to SCDDSN, the modification must be requested to the SCDDSN Waiver Administration Division. In all cases, the lowest bid must be indicated, as the award will be made to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder. If a bid is submitted from a contractor that has been debarred by the State of South Carolina Materials Management Office, then the bid will be dismissed and a new bid will be obtained.

If the participant/legal guardian has communicated concerns about using the lowest bidder, citing, for example, bad references, proof of faulty work, complaints from the Better Business Bureau, etc., then the Waiver Case Manager/Early Interventionist must submit these concerns, in writing, to SCDDSN. SCDDSN Central Office staff will review this information, and, if legitimate, documented and substantiated concerns are noted, this information will be reported to the State of South Carolina Materials Management Office (SCMMO). The SCMMO will review this information, and, if they concur, the vendor will be debarred. If DDSN receives word from SCMMO that a vendor has been disbarred or has otherwise lost its business license due to substantiated complaints, the participant/family will be allowed to use the next lowest bidder for the modification.

In addition to obtaining the written bids, the Waiver Case Manager/Early Interventionist must complete the Acknowledgment of Monetary Cap and Lifetime Service Limit for Private Vehicle Modifications (ID/RD Form E-2) with the participant/legal guardian. This form must be submitted to the SCDDSN Waiver Administration Division along with the written bids and the Private Vehicle Modification Consultation, if applicable. To assure that neither the per vehicle monetary cap nor the lifetime limit of two vehicle modifications per participant is exceeded, the participant's file must be researched to determine if any previous Private Vehicle Modifications have been funded by the ID/RD Waiver. The VIN for the vehicle(s) previously modified and the total dollar amount spent for any modification(s) must be entered on the Acknowledgment of Monetary Cap and Lifetime Service Limit for Private Vehicle Modifications (ID/RD Form E-2) along with the dollar amount of the requested modification and the VIN of the vehicle for which it is being requested. This form must be signed by the participant/legal guardian.

Note: Due to fluctuations in the costs of materials, some contractors limit the amount of time that they will honor a written quote. The SCDDSN Waiver Administration Division must assure that all bids submitted to SCDDSN Central Office for review are current and valid. This may require contacting bidders for confirmation.

Once the request for the modification has been approved, the participant/legal guardian must be presented with the Private Vehicle Modifications Project Agreement (ID/RD Form 61), agree to its terms and sign it before services can be authorized. Once the form is signed, the Waiver Case Manager/Early Interventionist can authorize the service, using the Authorization for Private Vehicle Modifications (ID/RD Form A-13). A copy of the authorized bid and the Private Vehicle Modification Consultation, if applicable, should be included with the authorization.

Monitoring Services: The Waiver Case Manager must monitor the completed modifications on-site within two (2) weeks of completion (before payment is requested and issued) to verify that the work is complete (i.e. all components of the project, as described in the written specifications/scope, have been fulfilled), adequate, and satisfactory to the family.

Some questions to consider during monitoring include:

- ❖ Was the modification completed as originally prescribed?
- ❖ Is the modification functional?
- ❖ Is the participant satisfied with the end result of the modification?
- ❖ How has it made his/her vehicle more accessible and safe?
- ❖ Was he/she satisfied with the provider of the modifications?
- ❖ Are there additional needs that were included in the bid and the authorized modification that were not met by the provider?

Reduction, Suspension or Termination of Services: If services are to be reduced, suspended or terminated, a written notice must be sent to the participant/representative including the details regarding the change(s) in service, the allowance for appeal, and a ten (10) calendar day waiting period (from the date that the reduction/suspension/termination form is completed) before the reduction, suspension or termination of the waiver service(s) takes effect. See *Chapter 9* for specific details and procedures regarding written notification and the appeals process.

S.C. DEPARTMENT OF DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL NEEDS INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY/RELATED DISABILITIES (ID/RD) WAIVER

Private Vehicle Modifications Project Agreement

- 1) ☐ I understand that the requested private vehicle modifications are being funded with public money. This consists primarily of federal Medicaid funding and a smaller portion of state funding.
- 2) ☐ I have seen and agree to the specifications for the private vehicle modification. I understand that only what is in the approved specifications will be provided and funded.
- 3) ☐ I understand that under South Carolina state procurement law, the requested private vehicle modification project must be awarded to the lowest qualified bidder.
- 4) ☐ I agree that I will not request or instruct the provider to change any of the approved specifications after the project is awarded.
- 6) ☐ I agree that any additional work performed by the provider must be separately negotiated between the provider and the owner and will be the sole financial responsibility of the owner.
- 7) ☐ I agree to work cooperatively with the provider to ensure a positive working relationship during the course of the project.
- 8) ☐ I agree to be available during the project if the provider needs to take measurements of me or my wheelchair or ask questions to ensure that I will benefit from these modifications.
- 9) ☐ I understand that I must notify my Waiver Case Manager immediately if any unforeseen problems occur during the project.

I have read, understand, and agree to each of the above terms. I also understand that the requested private vehicle modifications cannot proceed without my signature below.

Signature of ID/RD Waiver Participant (if age 18 years or older)
OR

Date

Signature of Parent/Legal Guardian/Vehicle Owner

Date

Signature of Waiver Case Manager/Early Interventionist

Date

S. C. DEPARTMENT OF DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL NEEDS



ID/RD WAIVER

Private Vehicle Modifications Fact Sheet

- Private Vehicle Modifications for people served through the Intellectual Disability/Related Disabilities (ID/RD) Waiver depend upon the participant's assessed needs and whether funding is available under the monetary cap of \$7,500.00 per vehicle with a lifetime cap of 2 vehicles. Procurement law and regulations apply along with specific restrictions and limits since federal Medicaid funding is being used.
- Private Vehicle Modifications must be completed by a licensed provider and the provider must comply with all equipment warranty requirements.
- Three written bids must be obtained and the lowest bid used.
- Examples of appropriate requests for private vehicle modifications include, but are not limited to the following: wheelchair lift, tie down system, lowered floor, raised roof, other modifications that facilitate entry/exit and interior movement or that facilitate safe restraint of a wheelchair during transit.
- Private Vehicle Modifications may include consultation and assessment to determine the specific modifications/equipment needed, follow-up inspection after modifications are completed, training in the use of equipment, repairs not covered by warranty, and replacement of parts or equipment related to the modification. Private Vehicle modifications may not be used for general repair of the vehicle.
- The ID/RD waiver will not provide funding for high-tech driving equipment and luxurious interior customizing, such as sound systems, VHS/DVD players, oak or teak trim work, extravagant seating, recreational accessories, or GPS navigation systems, etc.
- Routine maintenance and general repairs to the vehicle such tune-ups, engine/transmission servicing and parts replacement, air conditioning repair and replacement maintenance, tire care and replacement, painting, body work and batteries are the responsibility of the vehicle owner.

**S. C. DEPARTMENT OF DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL NEEDS
ID/RD WAIVER**

Acknowledgment of Bid Submission for Private Vehicle Modifications

Provider/Contractor: _____

Address: _____

Participant Name: _____

The _____ (DSN Board/Case Management Provider) has received your bid in the amount of \$_____ for private vehicle modifications that are proposed for the above named ID/RD Waiver participant. Your bid will be reviewed along with others submitted. If your bid is approved, you will receive written authorization from the Waiver Case Manager/Early Interventionist. **Under no circumstance should you begin work on these private vehicle modifications without written authorization from the Waiver Case Manager/Early Interventionist.** ID/RD Waiver funding cannot be used to pay for a service that was initiated or provided prior to authorization. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at the number noted below.

Case Management Provider: _____ Waiver Case Manager Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____

Signature of Waiver Case Manager/Early Interventionist

Date

Original: Provider/Contractor / Copy: File

**S. C. DEPARTMENT OF DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL NEEDS
ID/RD WAIVER****Acknowledgment of Monetary Cap and Lifetime Service Limit for Private Vehicle Modifications**

Participant Name: _____

Social Security #: _____

CM/EI Provider: _____

CM/EI Name: _____

This participant's record has been reviewed. Since 1 October 2004, ID/RD Waiver funding has been used to complete modifications on his/her behalf of the following vehicle(s):

VIN: _____

Cost: \$ _____

VIN: _____

Cost: \$ _____

The modifications being requested will cost \$ _____ for the vehicle with the VIN _____. This modification will not exceed the monetary cap of \$7,500 for this vehicle. Nor will it exceed the lifetime cap of two (2) vehicles for the above-named ID/RD Waiver participant.

Participant/Legal Guardian's Signature_____
Date****THIS DOCUMENT MUST REMAIN IN THE WORKING FILE AT ALL TIMES. ****